

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Total Maximum Daily Load Information Sheet

McKenzie Creek (pH)

Waterbody Segment at a Glance:

County: Wayne
Nearby Cities: Piedmont
Length of impairment: 0.5 miles
Pollutant: pH
Pollutant Source: Natural



TMDL Priority Ranking: Medium

Description of the Problem

Beneficial uses of McKenzie Creek

- Livestock and Wildlife Watering
- Protection of Warm Water Aquatic Life
- Protection of Human Health associated with Fish Consumption

Use that is impaired

- Protection of Warm Water Aquatic Life

Standards that apply

- Missouri's Water Quality Standards (WQS), 10 CSR20-7.031 Section (4)(E), state that water contaminants shall not cause pH to be outside of the range of 6.5-9.0 Standard Units (SU)

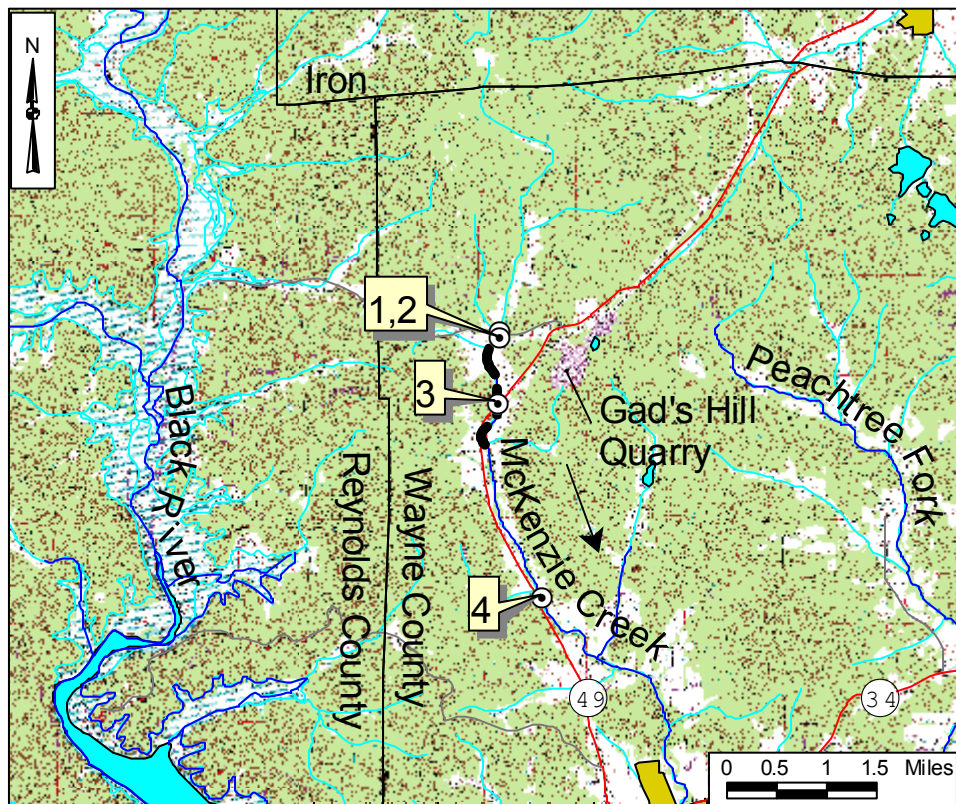
McKenzie Creek is a tributary to the Black River. In the upper portion of the watershed, a one-half mile segment of McKenzie Creek is impaired by low pH, due predominantly to the low pH (acidic) of rainwater in the area (4.7 SU¹). The predominant rocks in this watershed are igneous, do not buffer rainwater the way carbonaceous rocks throughout most of Missouri do. This low pH problem may be aggravated by discharge from a granite quarry that enters McKenzie Creek through a tributary. Water quality monitoring of the creek by the Department of Natural Resources between 1992 and 2003 shows that pH values *upstream* of the quarry and two miles downstream of the quarry are similar and are too low to meet state standards. Three and a half miles below the quarry pH in McKenzie Creek is improved by the inflow of more alkaline buffered water.

¹ Based on data from the National Atmospheric Deposition Program, National Trends Network for rain in southeastern Missouri.

The TMDL examines several possible sources of acidity and concludes that the principal source in McKenzie Creek is unbuffered acid rain. This rain is partially attributable to sulfur dioxide emissions from the Glover Smelter, which is 17 miles from the creek. Since this smelter closed December 2003, it is assumed that the precipitation will be less acidic. Future monitoring of the creek should determine whether this is true or not.

Since pH is not a concentration, a daily maximum load cannot be calculated. Therefore the endpoint for the TMDL is simply that there shall be no deviation from the pH standard of 6.5-9.0 SU.

McKenzie Creek in Wayne County, Missouri, with the Impaired Segment and Sampling Sites



--- Impaired Segment → Direction of Flow

Site Index

- 1 – McKenzie Creek 0.1 mile above Quarry tributary
- 2 – Tributary from Gad's Hill Quarry near mouth
- 3 – McKenzie Creek 2 miles below Gad's Hill Quarry
- 4 – McKenzie Creek 3.5 miles below Gad's Hill Quarry

pH in McKenzie Creek

Date	Site #			
	1	2	3	4
October 15, 1992			6.2	6.4
September 16, 1993	5.7	5.2	6.0	7.1
April 15, 1994		6.3		7.1
September, 1999			6.6	7.5
April 6, 2000	6.2		6.2	7.6
May 18, 2000			5.9	7.4
August 24, 2000			5.9	7.6
June 19, 2001			6.0	7.5
July 18, 2001			6.1	7.7
July 16, 2003	6.0		6.1	7.4

Source: Missouri Department of Natural Resources

For more information call or write:

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Water Protection Program

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